

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

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October 30, 2013

TO: ZIP LINE OWNERS AND OPERATORS

SUBJECT: REQUIRED INSPECTIONS AND EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

The Division has determined that its authority to regulate temporary and permanent amusement rides includes all commercial zip lines in California, whether operated with or without mechanical braking devices. For purposes of both our portable and permanent amusement ride definitions, simple wheel and cable zip lines, as well as complicated trolley zip lines with multiple towers, magnetic brakes, and other features, constitute "mechanical device[s]" subject to the Division's jurisdiction regardless of height or length. (Lab. Code, §§ 7901, 7921.)

To obtain a permit or certificate to operate zip lines in California, all zip line operations, temporary or permanent, must comply with the regulations contained in the California Code of Regulations, title 8, sections 3900 to 3920 (temporary rides) or 3195.1 to 3195.14 (permanent rides), including, but not limited to, the requirements listed below:

1. The attachments and harnesses provided to and used by patrons shall be of sufficient fit, design, construction and strength to retain, restrain, or support the patron from falling, whether the person is upright, inverted, or in a horizontal position. Starting February 1, 2014, the Division will not issue permits or certificates of inspection for zip line operations without evidence that the models of attachments and harnesses used have passed testing conducted in accordance with ANSI Z359.1 or an equivalent test protocol.
2. Between now and February 1, 2014, to allow time to come into compliance, owners and operators may use equipment that includes attachments and either a single or dual-component full-body harness that has been tested in accordance with ANSI Z359.1, NFPA 1983, OSHA 29 CFR PART 1926.502(d), UIAA 105, ASTM F1772, EN 12277, or an equivalent test method with regard to performance and construction. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, §§ 3902, 3903, 3908, 3909, 3195.3, 3195.4, 3195.5, 3195.9, subd. (f); ASTM 846-92, § 6; ASTM F 1159-02, § 7.7; see also Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, § 1670.)
3. All zip line operations must include a primary and emergency braking system. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, §§ 3904, 3195.3, 3195.4, 3195.9; ASTM F 1159-02, §12.)
4. All zip line operators shall establish and implement an equipment inspection, replacement and retirement policy for all safety related items. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, §§ 3911, subd. (c), 3195.3, subd. (a)(2)(B)(2).)

It is illegal to operate an amusement ride without a permit or certificate. To obtain a permit or certificate, owners and operators must comply with the above-referenced regulations and requirements. Owners and operators of zip lines must also comply with the California Code of Regulations, title 8, sections 344.5 to 344.17. At your request, the Division can send an inspector to your zip line operation to confirm compliance with all applicable regulations and requirements.

The Division looks forward to working with you to ensure compliance. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this notice, please contact Nancy Medeiros, Senior Engineer for the Division's Amusement Ride and Tramway Unit, at nmedeiros@dir.ca.gov or (916) 263-3511.

Sincerely,

Deborah Gold, MPH, CIH
Deputy Chief for Health and Engineering Services